

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

**STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF December 8-9, 2022**

Prepared on November 18, 2022

**ITEM NUMBER: 15**

**SUBJECT: Field Trip - Tour of the Kompogas® San Luis Obispo  
LLC organic waste recycling facility and Wolff Vineyards**

**STAFF CONTACTS: Matthew Keeling, (805) 549-3140,  
[matt.keeling@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:matt.keeling@waterboards.ca.gov)**

**KEY INFORMATION**

**Location:** Kompogas SLO, 4300 Old Sante Fe Road, San Luis Obispo  
Wolff Vineyards, 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo

**ACTION: Information and Field Trip**

**SUMMARY**

This item consists of a two-part tour of the Kompogas® SLO organic waste recycling facility followed by a tour of Wolff Vineyards where high-grade compost from the facility has been applied to a new vineyard plantings to support healthy soils and improve vineyard production.

The Kompogas® SLO facility tour starts at 9:00 a.m., Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>. The facility is located at 4300 Old Sante Fe Road, San Luis Obispo. The tour is anticipated to last approximately 90 minutes followed by a tour of Wolff Vineyards at 6238 Orcutt Road, San Luis Obispo. Although the tour is open to the public, tour participation is limited. Members of the public interested in participating in the tour must RSVP by 12:00 noon, Monday, December 5, 2022, by emailing the Clerk to the Board at

[RB3-CommentLetters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:RB3-CommentLetters@waterboards.ca.gov).

Public participation will be based on a first come first served basis up to the allowable tour size of 15 individuals including board members and select staff.

**DISCUSSION**

In response to organic waste collection and landfill diversion requirements pursuant to [SB 1383](#)<sup>1</sup> to reduce greenhouse gas (i.e., methane) emissions from landfills, all local

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<sup>1</sup><https://calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/sllp/collection/#:~:text=Beginning%20in%202022%2C%20SB%201383,provides%20solid%20waste%20collection%20services>.

jurisdictions that provide solid waste collection services need to provide organic waste collection services to all residents and businesses and recycle these organic materials using recycling facilities such as anaerobic digestion facilities that create biofuel and electricity and composting facilities that make soil amendments. “Organic waste” includes food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges.

The [Kompogas® SLO](#)<sup>2</sup> facility, in part, is the [San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority's](#)<sup>3</sup> (SLOIRWM) response to the SB 1383 organic waste diversion and recycling requirements. Organic waste diverted from local landfills is processed via anaerobic digestion at the Kompogas® SLO facility that produces biogas used to generate renewable electricity and high-grade compost and liquid fertilizer for use by the public and local farmers and vineyards for landscaping and food and wine production.

[Wolff Vineyards](#)<sup>4</sup> is an ecologically friendly, certified sustainable property and family-owned business in Edna Valley. Principle owner and Central Coast Water Board Vice Chair, Jean-Pierre Wolff, recently replanted 10 acres of Chardonnay and 5 acres of Pinot Noir. Prior to replanting, he worked 20 tons of high-grade compost from the Kompogas® SLO facility into the soil to amend it with organic carbon, nutrients, and essential soil microbes. The applied compost provides multiple benefits associated with improved soil health, moisture retention and reduced irrigation needs, reduced fertilizer nitrogen needs, and overall improved health and viability of the new Chardonnay and Pinot Noir plantings. This is a prime example of the applied benefits associated with the Kompogas® SLO facility and the renewable energy and agricultural products it generates. Wolff Vineyards is also applying other environmentally beneficial management practices to improve soil health and reduce irrigation needs such as the use of cover crops, subsurface drip irrigation to reduce soil moisture evaporation, an onsite weather station and soil moisture probes to measure evapotranspiration and soil moisture to maximize irrigation efficiency and timing. The Wolff Vineyards tour will highlight some of these management practices and their benefits.

## CONCLUSION

The Kompogas® SLO facility is providing local climate change mitigation benefits in the form of reducing methane emissions from landfills, generating renewable energy, and generating compost and liquid fertilizers that can help build healthier soils that sequester carbon and retain moisture, and reduce the need for irrigation and chemical fertilizer inputs. Wolff Vineyards is applying model climate change adaptation and mitigation healthy soils and irrigation management practices for vineyards that reduce chemical fertilizer needs and irrigation water needs and associated pumping electricity demand.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://kompogas-slo.com/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://iwma.com/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://wolffvineyards.com/>